



Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), Chairman

May 19, 2010

YouCut Participants Vote to Restore Welfare Reform

Every week, the House Republican YouCut project will allow the American people to vote online for various spending cut options as presented on the Republican Whip's website. The first winner, that will become a previous question vote on the House floor, is the proposal by RSC Chairman Tom Price (R-GA) and BSTF Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH) to eliminate the new welfare fund created by the "stimulus" bill. This proposal is based on the Welfare Reform Restoration Act (H.R. 1277), which was an RSC Sunset Caucus Initiative. 280,000 total votes were cast to select the YouCut winner. The majority, through the previous question vote, will now have the choice between allowing the House to consider an option to cut wasteful spending, or instead blocking the House from considering this deficit reduction option. Eliminating the new **welfare fund** created by the "stimulus" would save taxpayers \$2.5 billion annually, and restore the principles of the successful 1996 welfare reform law.

Lummis to Introduce Federal Workforce Reduction Act

Representative Cynthia Lummis will introduce legislation that institutes an immediate freeze for non-national security hires (all federal agencies outside of the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security would be subject to the hiring freeze). The long-term impact of the legislation would be more ambitious, since agencies would only be allowed to hire 75 new employees for every 100 federal workers that retire or otherwise terminate their employment with the federal government. Consequently, the domestic federal workforce would ultimately be reduced by 25%. In addition, the bill requires the executive branch to disclose to Congress and the American people a list and description of all new federal positions, broken down by federal agency. To cosponsor the legislation, contact london.stropko@mail.house.gov.

Quote of the Week:

"Those are fantasy jobs. Those aren't real jobs. They just need to put a cork in it and realize that some things that have been around for a while are still relevant ... like a good transportation network that isn't falling apart."

-Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR),
5/10/2010, on the Administration's focus on "information technology and energy-related jobs," as quoted in *Roll Call*.

\$48 Billion Competes Act on Floor Today

Today, the House considered the America Competes Reauthorization Act. The legislation authorizes a total of \$48 billion over three years for the approximately 40 programs that would otherwise sunset at the end of 2010, and that were created by the Competes Act of 2007. The legislation would further create at least six new government programs. The authorization level is \$9.5 billion above the current law budget baseline.



"Extenders" Bill May Be on Floor Tomorrow

This week, the House may consider the so-called extenders bill. The House passed an earlier version of this legislation (HR 4213) in December 2009. It consisted of preventing tax increases by extending the many expiring tax provisions that expired at end of 2009, but it "paid" for this with new, *permanent* tax increases. The biggest such tax increase was taxing "carried interest" as ordinary income instead of treating it as capital gains. Subsequently, the Senate passed a version of the bill that added extensions of various spending provisions, most of them meant to be temporary (such as COBRA health benefits, higher Medicaid FMAP spending, and the unemployment benefits extension). Reportedly, the total deficit impact of the bill could approach \$200 billion, though text is unavailable.

For more information, please contact Brad Watson at x69719